



**Watershed Stewards Academy's Sixth Annual Conference:
"Spring into Action" February 25, 2017
Lindale Middle School**

8:30 a.m. Refreshments and Registration

9:00 a.m. Opening and Keynote Address, Nick DiPasquale, Chesapeake Bay Program

10:15 a.m. Session 1

Track A.1. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

Lawn Alternatives: Creating Successful Groundlayers, Larry Weaner

Demand for alternatives to mowed turf is increasing. Yet successful techniques for consistently establishing turf alternatives are less understood since it often involves acting counter to traditional horticultural practices. This presentation explores both the practical ways to adapt groundlayer compositions found in our native woodlands, wetlands, and meadows and illustrates how environmental and cost benefits can be realized through the creation of visually stunning lawn alternatives on residential properties of all sizes as well as public landscapes.

Track A.2. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

Maintenance: GET IT DONE!

Project maintenance is an issue for every project leader. While we may know WHAT to do, many of us struggle to GET IT DONE! Attend this session for a quick maintenance refresher, followed by innovative ideas for easily accomplishing seasonal maintenance before things get "out of hand".

Track B. Neighbor to Neighbor – Conversations for Clean Water

Bridging Our Differences: How to have conversation in politically charged times, Wayne Gilchrist & Chris Trumbauer

Do you have a neighbor, family member or friend you dread talking with about controversial topics? Do differences in viewpoints prevent you or others from addressing important issues in your community? This session will discern why some conversations are so hard and what we can each do to facilitate dialogue that is positive and productive – even when we disagree!

Track C. WSA Pro - Restoration Professionals for Clean Water

Professionals and Stewards: Collaborating to fund and build successful large scale restoration in Anne Arundel County, Joe Ports

This session will unpack the elements of a successful application to the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program. New guidance for identifying the right project and assembling the right project team will allow participants to focus time and resources toward projects and communities with a strong likelihood for success.

Track D. Collective Action – Collaborating for Clean Water

100 Acre Wood, Greg Kenefick and Rosie Miller

From conception to funding to training and empowering volunteers, glean lessons for your own community forest project. This session will demonstrate how Bay Ridge harnessed many small actions to successfully preserve and restore 100 acres of woodlands in their community. .

11:15 a.m. Session 2

Track A. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

Modern Homesteading, Nate Powers

Gardening has many benefits. From putting healthy, fresh food on the table and enjoying the beauty of nature to getting exercise. New technology allows people to get growing regardless of where they live, their age or the weather outside. This session will explore several areas of modern homesteading including rooting & seed starting, hydroponics, composting, beekeeping, and more.

Track B. Neighbor to Neighbor – Conversations for Clean Water

Let's Talk Trash, Michelle Williams

Ever wonder where the trash in your community winds up? Ever spend a Saturday pulling trash out of a stream? Watershed Protection and Restoration Program's Michelle Williams will discuss the efforts to install trash traps in targeted streams in Anne Arundel County. Learn what you can do to reduce the trash moving from your community into your local stream.

Track C. WSA Pro - Restoration Professionals for Clean Water

Identifying and Overcoming Challenges: A Dialog for Restoration Professionals, Kirk Mantay

Building support for and implementing restoration projects at all scales is a give and take process. This session serves as a safe space for restoration professionals to candidly share the challenges and short-comings they have experienced, as part of a broader dialogue to identify solutions to widespread issues in implementing large scale restoration projects.

Track D. Collective Action – Collaborating for Clean Water

Calling All Watershed Stewards!

Join our first ever, "Stewards Only" conference session. Learn about unique funding opportunities, new resources from WSA and connect with Steward friends, old and new. Need a project idea? Need volunteer help from other Stewards on a project you are leading? Want to find out who else is working on similar things in your area? Join this interactive session to collaborate for clean water!

12:00 p.m. Lunch

**12:45 p.m. Gallery and Exhibit Walk
Funder Office Hours**

1:45 p.m. Session 3

Track A. 1. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

(Departs at 1:30 p.m.) Restoration Tour: Linthicum Oaks Stormwater Pond Retrofit Projects, James Wood

Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program Project Manager, James Woods will showcase two recent dry pond retrofits. As part of the WPRP's program to reduce pollution to Cabin Branch, these two ponds were transformed to capture sediment and nutrients. This tour will be outside; please dress for the weather some walking will be on unpaved paths. Participants will meet at the conference registration desk and carpool or walk to the project location. Directions will be provided.

Track A. 2. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

(Departs at 1:30 p.m.) Restoration Tour: Engaging Non-waterfront Communities in Restoration: Residential and Congregational Restoration Projects in Linthicum, Sandy Hartzell and Brenda Schwaab

Tour several stormwater projects in the non-waterfront town of Linthicum. This tour will feature RiverWise Congregational rain gardens and bio-swales at St. John Lutheran Church and residential projects that are part of the Clean Water Linthicum project. Together these projects help reduce polluted runoff by over 85,000 gallons annually. This tour will be outside; please dress for the weather some walking will be on unpaved paths. Participants will meet at the conference registration desk and carpool to the project locations. Directions will be provided.

Track B. Neighbor to Neighbor – Conversations for Clean Water

Detox Your Home – A Conversation About Household Toxins Jennie Gundersen

Join chemist and Master Watershed Steward, Jennie Gundersen, on a tour of toxic chemicals found right in your household. Learn how you can easily and cheaply replace those products. Bring this information back to your community with new ideas of how to reduce toxins at home.

Track C. WSA Pro - Restoration Professionals for Clean Water

Novel Eco-technologies Employed in an Urban Context: The Application of Floating Wetlands and Algal Turf Farms in Support of Chesapeake Bay Restoration Goals, Peter May

Biohabitats' Senior Scientist, Peter May, will unpack the science behind two innovative ways to treat polluted water in an urban context.

Track D. Collective Action – Collaborating for Clean Water

Part 1: Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children's Air & Water, Craig Stevens, Ray Kemble, Lee McCaslin, Mike Tidwell

This session will include a viewing of the documentary *Groundswell Rising* and a panel discussion with the film's key subjects. Infusing human rights, public health, and social justice, *Groundswell Rising* empowers viewers to make a difference in their communities. Through candid interviews and true stories, *Groundswell Rising* brings us into the lives of people directly impacted by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and climate change and those on the front lines, dedicated to stopping this form of gas extraction. This session will run from 1:45 to 3:30 and is designed to be attended in its entirety, however, participants can drop in or out, missing either the showing or the discussion.

2:45 pm Session 4

Track A. In the Ground – Actions for Clean Water

Anne Arundel County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program: Moving Toward Integrated Water Management, Erik Michelsen

Now moving into its fourth year, Anne Arundel County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program has completed over 80 water quality restoration projects, with more than 160 more still on the horizon, including several of the County's largest restoration projects ever pursued. Three years in, there have been many lessons learned, as well as steps taken to better coordinate clean water efforts within the County. This presentation will discuss completed and planned projects, as well as the bigger picture for clean water in Anne Arundel County.

Track B. Neighbor to Neighbor – Conversations for Clean Water

Improving the Bay through Community Engagement: Let's Do This! Alison Milligan

Are you a Steward who is looking to involve your community? Not sure where to begin? No obvious way to approach your neighbors? Have some difficult people you want to reach? Learn how I've been working in my community to engage my neighbors. Bring your questions and your challenges.

Track C. WSA Pro - Restoration Professionals for Clean Water

Natural Landscape Design: Meadows, Woods and Water, Larry Weaner

Natural gardens can reduce maintenance, improve the environment, and enhance the beauty of any residential property. Through a series of case studies, this presentation details techniques for gracefully integrating native plant compositions and ecological processes into the residential setting. Projects are presented from inception to maturity, providing a behind-the-scenes look at both practical and aesthetic considerations involved in creating and maintaining natural gardens.

Track D. Collective Action – Collaborating for Clean Water

Part 2: Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children's Air & Water, Craig Stevens, Ray Kemble, Lee McCaslin, Mike Tidwell

This session will include a viewing of the documentary *Groundswell Rising* and a panel discussion with the film's key subjects. Infusing human rights, public health, and social justice, *Groundswell Rising* empowers viewers to make a difference in their communities. Through candid interviews and true stories, *Groundswell Rising* brings us into the lives of people directly impacted by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and climate change and those on the front lines, dedicated to stopping this form of gas extraction. This is a continuation of Session 3 Track D and this runs from 1:45 to 3:30 and is designed to be attended in its entirety, however, participants can drop in or out, missing either the showing or the discussion.

3:45 pm Closing Remarks: Spring into Action!

